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Strengthening the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme, in particular its technical cooperation capacity

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report, which has been prepared in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 57/173, provides a brief overview of the main developments of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme during the past year. It reviews the progress in the negotiation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption and in promoting the ratification of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, which will enter into force on 29 September 2003. The report reviews the expansion of the technical cooperation activities of the Programme, especially through the global programmes for countering terrorism, organized crime, trafficking in human beings and corruption and for supporting reconstruction of criminal justice systems, justice reform and crime prevention. It also reviews ongoing efforts in the areas of research, implementation of standards and norms, dissemination of information, coordination of activities and mobilization of resources.

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I. Introduction

1. Greater international cooperation and the provision of technical assistance to countries is essential for achieving improved levels of security for the peoples of the world. The United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme contributes to that goal. The present report highlights the main developments of the Programme during the past year, updating information contained in the report of the Executive Director on the work of the Centre for International Crime Prevention (E/CN.15/2003/2). Related documents include the reports of the Secretary-General on: (a) the United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and Treatment of Offenders (A/58/223); (b) promoting the ratification of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto (A/58/___); (c) preventing and combating corrupt practices and transfer of funds of illicit origin and returning such funds to their countries of origin (A/58/__); and (d) preparations for the Eleventh United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (A/58/87-E/2003/82).

II. Twelfth session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

2. The Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its twelfth session, held in Vienna from 13 to 22 May 2003, provided further policy guidance and direction. In addition to addressing the issues of transnational organized crime, trafficking in human beings, corruption and terrorism, the Commission discussed topics relating to prevention of urban crime, reform of criminal justice and reconstruction of the justice sector in post-conflict societies. It recommended four draft resolutions for adoption by the General Assembly and eight draft resolutions for adoption by the Economic and Social Council. Details are contained in the report of the Commission on its twelfth session.[1]

III. Entry into force of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime

3. To promote the ratification of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto a two-pronged strategy has been pursued: regional and subregional ministerial meetings and seminars have been held to secure political commitment of States and advisory services have been provided to States requesting the assistance of the Centre for International Crime Prevention in formulating changes in national legislation. As the required number of States (40) have ratified the Convention, it will enter into force on 29 September 2003. Details are provided in a separate report (A/58/__). At its twelfth session, the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice recommended that the Economic and Social Council approve, for adoption by the General Assembly, a draft resolution entitled "International cooperation in the fight against transnational organized crime: assistance to States in capacity-building with a view to facilitating the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto".[2]

IV. Negotiation of the draft United Nations convention against corruption and preparations for holding a high-level political conference for the purpose of signing the convention

4. In its resolution 57/169 of 18 December 2002, the General Assembly urged the Ad Hoc Committee for the Negotiation of a Convention against Corruption to endeavour to complete its work by the end of 2003. No efforts have been spared to provide the Ad Hoc Committee with the maximum support, as well as to ensure the participation of as many States as possible in the proceedings. As at June 2003, the Ad Hoc Committee had held five sessions, each of two weeks' duration. At its fourth session, the Ad Hoc Committee had before it a global study on the transfer of funds of illicit origin, especially funds derived from acts of corruption (A/AC.261/12), prepared in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 2001/13 of 24 July 2001. At its fifth session, the Ad Hoc Committee held 10 informal consultations in order to explore further issues that required attention and to lay the ground for the final agreement. The informal consultations were devoted to considering two chapters of the draft United Nations Convention against Corruption: chapter II, entitled "Preventive measures", and chapter V, entitled "Preventing and combating the transfer of funds of illicit origins derived from acts of corruption, including the laundering of funds, and returning such funds". At its fifth session, the Committee established a consistency group to ensure consistency in the text of the draft convention and in all the language versions of the draft convention. At its sixth session, held in Vienna from 21 July to 8 August 2003, the Ad Hoc Committee continued its third and final reading of the draft convention. At its seventh session, to be held in Vienna from 29 September to 1 October 2003, the Ad Hoc Committee is expected to conclude its work, building on the spirit of cooperation and political will demonstrated during the negotiations. Throughout the sessions of the Ad Hoc Committee, there has been a high level of attendance; moreover, many least developed countries have been represented at the sessions.

5. In its resolution 57/169, the General Assembly accepted with appreciation the offer made by the Government of Mexico to host a high-level political conference for the purpose of signing the convention, decided to convene the conference by the end of 2003, requested the Secretary-General to schedule the conference for a period of three days, and requested the Centre for International Crime Prevention to work with the Government of Mexico, in consultation with Member States, in formulating proposals for the organization of the conference so that it might provide opportunities for high-level delegates to consider issues connected with the convention, in particular follow-up activities for its effective implementation and future work in the area of fighting corruption. At the fourth session of the Ad Hoc Committee, the representative of Mexico announced that the conference would be held in Mérida, Mexico. A fact-finding mission to Mérida took place from 16 to 20 February 2003 and discussions were held with the Government of the host country on substantive and organizational arrangements. On 23 May 2003, representatives of the Mexican National Organizing Committee, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the United Nations Office at Vienna held a planning meeting. At that meeting, the Government of Mexico confirmed that the conference would be held from 9 to 11 December 2003; other organizational arrangements were

also confirmed. A planning mission will be undertaken to settle all organizational matters so that a host country agreement may be finalized pursuant to Assembly resolution 40/243 of 18 December 1985. More details are provided in the report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Ad Hoc Committee for the Negotiation of a Convention against Corruption (A/58/___).

V. Eleventh United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

6. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 57/171 of 18 December 2002, preparations are being made for the Eleventh United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, to be held in Bangkok from 18 to 25 April 2005. Details are contained in a separate report (A/58/87-E/2003/82). At its twelfth session, the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice recommended that the Economic and Social Council approve, for adoption by the Assembly, a draft resolution entitled "Preparations for the Eleventh United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice".[3]

VI. Providing technical assistance to Member States

7. In 2002, the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme supported projects with a total value of approximately $7.5 million. The technical cooperation programme expanded from 5 country projects in 1998 to 40 in 2003 (both ongoing and planned). Such activities are implemented within the framework of the four global programmes (against terrorism, organized crime, trafficking in human beings and corruption), as well as in the areas of reconstruction of criminal justice systems, justice reform and crime prevention. Activities in each of the four areas are briefly outlined below. A list of projects implemented in 2002 is provided in the annex.

8. The technical assistance activities of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme are implemented in a fully integrated manner with the activities of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme, under the new organizational structure of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.

A. Preventing terrorism

9. An increased number of mandates have been given to the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme for activities related to the prevention of terrorism, especially through General Assembly in its resolutions 56/88 of 12 December 2001, 56/123 of 19 December 2001 and 56/261 of 31 January 2002 and Economic and Social Council resolution 2002/19 of 24 July 2002. In pursuance of those mandates, an expanded programme of work was proposed in the report of the Secretary-General on strengthening the Terrorism Prevention Branch of the Secretariat (A/57/152 and Corr.1, A/57/152/Add.1 and Corr.1 and 2 and A/57/152/Add.2). The focus is on the provision of assistance to Member States, upon request, for ratifying and implementing the 12 international conventions and protocols relating to terrorism. The Assembly, in section IV of its resolution 57/292

of 20 December 2002, approved an increase in the regular budget resource allocation to strengthen the Branch.

10. To provide a framework for the delivery of technical assistance, a global programme against terrorism was launched in October 2002 and was endorsed by the Commission at its twelfth session. The aim of the global programme is to respond promptly and efficiently to requests for counter-terrorism assistance that have been received from Member States either directly or through the Counter-Terrorism Committee of the Security Council. Extrabudgetary resources are being made available by donor countries for implementing elements of the global programme. To date, legal advisory services have been provided to 26 countries. It is expected that, during the remainder of 2003, technical assistance will be provided to approximately 15 more countries. A legislative guide has been prepared for use in direct legal assistance, regional or subregional workshops and training courses.

11. Activities of the Terrorism Prevention Branch are closely coordinated with the Counter-Terrorism Committee, which lists the Branch as an entity providing legal technical assistance. Partnerships have also been established with relevant entities of the Secretariat, especially the Office of Legal Affairs, other United Nations entities, national ministries and international and regional organizations. They include, in particular, close cooperation and joint activities with the International Monetary Fund, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), the Commonwealth Secretariat and the Organization of American States. The Branch has also provided substantive input to the work of the European Union, the Association of South-East Asian Nations and the Council of Europe. Furthermore, the Branch contributed to workshops on the implementation of Security Council resolution 1373 (2001) of 28 September 2001 organized by the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights for Central Asia and Caucasus States in Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

12. At its twelfth session, the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice recommended that the Economic and Social Council approve for adoption by the General Assembly, a draft resolution entitled "Strengthening international cooperation and technical assistance in promoting the implementation of the universal conventions and protocols related to terrorism within the framework of the activities of the Centre for International Crime Prevention".[4] In that draft resolution, the Assembly would invite Member States to provide the Secretary-General with information on the nature of links between terrorism and other forms of crime, in order to increase synergies in the delivery of technical assistance by the Centre; would request the Secretary-General to include an analysis of that information in a report to the Assembly at its fifty-ninth session; would request the Centre to prepare guidelines on technical assistance according to which the Centre would provide assistance related to promoting the ratification of, accession to and implementation of the universal conventions and protocols related to terrorism; and would request the Secretary-General to organize a senior-level session during the thirteenth session of the Commission, in 2004, on progress made with regard to the criminal justice aspects of terrorism and international cooperation and to the universal conventions and protocols related to terrorism.

B. Combating organized crime

13. The global programme against transnational organized crime covers a number of areas, including: monitoring the policies and measures for combating organized crime, as well as assessing their effectiveness and efficiency; raising awareness of the existence, causes and gravity of the threat posed by transnational organized crime and promoting successful strategies for combating it; and providing technical assistance through advisory services and field projects.

Sharing information

14. During 2002, a pilot project on collecting and analysing information on criminal groups in a large number of societies was completed. A report containing an analysis of information on 40 criminal groups in 16 countries was made available on the Internet (www.unodc.org/pdf/crime/publications/Pilot_survey.pdf). In addition, country-specific information on organized criminal groups and national, institutional anti-mafia structures will be made available on a web site. Information will be added on the requirements for international cooperation in each country. The web site is intended to be a tool for law enforcement officials, in particular prosecutors, seeking information about and from other legal jurisdictions on cases involving organized crime. A manual on best practices in preventing and fighting organized crime was prepared and discussed at an expert group meeting held in Prague on 13 and 14 July 2003.

Training criminal justice practitioners

15. Within the framework of the global programme against transnational organized crime, a multimedia seminar for training law enforcement personnel, including police investigators, prosecutors, judges, intelligence analysts and customs officials, has been developed and refined. The seminar examines best practices in the fight against organized crime and corruption in the areas of investigation, international cooperation, collaboration with and protection of witnesses, prevention of organized crime and development of legislation against organized crime. Participants are requested at the end of the seminar to carry out a needs assessment to strengthen their countries' policies and measures against organized crime.

16. Initially, pilot seminars were held in Colombia, Croatia, Peru and Slovakia. In the course of 2002 and the first half of 2003, additional seminars were held in Belarus, Colombia, Indonesia, Mexico, Nigeria, Romania and Ukraine. A seminar for officials from Central American countries was held in Guatemala City and was attended by participants from five countries. In addition, a seminar for officials from Serbia and Montenegro and its neighbouring countries was held in May 2003. To date, over 700 investigators, prosecutors, judges and other officials have been trained. During the remainder of 2003, seminars will be conducted in Bolivia, Chile, Jordan and Mongolia, and subregional seminars will be held for 14 countries in Southern Africa.

Technical assistance projects

Assessment of organized crime in Central Asia

17. A project to collect and analyse information on the nature of organized crime in the Central Asian countries of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, with a view to developing further technical assistance activities to combat it, has been completed. A draft report will be distributed to participating countries by the end of 2003.

The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

18. In 1999, a project was launched in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to tackle economic and financial crime by strengthening legal provisions and establishing a specialized police unit. Domestic problems have slowed the implementation of the project. Nevertheless, it is hoped that the objectives of the project will be met during 2003.

Measures against organized crime in South Africa

19. A project on measures against organized crime in South Africa was completed during 2002. The aim of the project was to assist the South African authorities in developing effective strategies and expertise for fighting organized crime by providing, among other things, training and mentors.

Assessment of transnational organized criminal groups in West Africa

20. In West Africa, a project for the systematic collection and analysis of qualitative and quantitative data and other information on organized criminal groups operating in the region, to be used to formulate practical recommendations on combating and preventing organized crime, is expected to be completed by the end of 2003. An assessment report will be shared with the participating countries.

Other planned activities

21. In its resolution 2002/16 of 24 July 2002, the Economic and Social Council vigorously condemned and rejected the worldwide practice of kidnapping and encouraged Member States to increase cooperation in order to counter it. The Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its twelfth session recommended the adoption by the Council of a draft resolution entitled "International cooperation in the prevention, combating and elimination of kidnapping and in providing assistance to victims".[5] In that a draft resolution, the Council would request the Secretary-General to provide technical assistance to States, upon request, to enable them to strengthen their capacity to combat kidnapping. The development of effective technical assistance in response to the growing problem of kidnapping, and its links with organized crime, will thus become a priority. Additional activities are planned during 2003 to develop specific technical assistance projects to support units specialized in fighting organized crime in a number of countries where problems involving organized crime are particularly severe or have the potential to become serious.

C. Combating trafficking in human beings, especially women and children

22. Within the framework of the global programme against trafficking in human beings, the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme continued to provide technical assistance to support Member States in their efforts to combat trafficking in human beings. Given the complex nature of such trafficking, securing the expertise of other organizations and ensuring complementarity of action are essential. The Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its twelfth session focused on the theme "Trafficking in human beings, especially women and children", drawing on the expertise of a large number of organizations and individuals. The Commission recommended that the Economic and Social Council approve, for adoption by the General Assembly, a draft resolution entitled "Strengthening international cooperation in preventing and combating trafficking in persons and protecting victims of such trafficking".[6]

Global trends in trafficking in human beings

23. Together with the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime is conducting research and assessment activities to examine the processes involved in trafficking in human beings, including the role of organized criminal groups in such trafficking. To that end, a number of research tools have been developed and tested. Within the framework of the global programme against trafficking in human beings, a database has been established. The database on trafficking in human beings includes data from multiple sources on global trends in such trafficking, the cross-country routes used and the volume of such trafficking.

Promoting public information and best practices

24. Following the success of the first public service announcement campaign on trafficking in humans for sexual exploitation, launched in 2001, a second video on trafficking in men, women and children for bonded and forced labour, such as in factories, on farms or as domestic servants, was released in February 2002. Two video clips aimed at raising the awareness of the general public about the epidemic growth of that modern-day form of slavery and about victim empowerment are being made. A manual or tool kit that is being prepared will provide examples of good practices in preventing and combating such trafficking.

Technical assistance projects

Czech Republic and Poland

25. A project addressing trafficking in human beings along routes leading to and from Eastern Europe has begun in the Czech Republic and Poland. It focuses on law reform, strengthened investigation and prosecution of cases involving such trafficking, as well as the provision of assistance to victims at the local level.

Philippines

26. A pilot project in the Philippines has been completed. It included awareness-raising and training sessions for law enforcement officers from different parts of the

country and workshops on improved police-prosecutor cooperation. It resulted in the formulation of an inventory of relevant legislation, the formulation of guidelines for investigation and the testing of a new training curriculum for consular staff. The project also resulted in a national plan of action.

Benin, Nigeria and Togo

27. In conjunction with the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute and in cooperation with the Governments of Italy and Nigeria, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime initiated a project addressing the smuggling of minors and young women from Nigeria into Italy. In addition, a project in Benin, Nigeria and Togo is to address the assessment of trafficking flows and measures for combating trafficking in human beings.

Other planned activities

Brazil

28. A project to assess the routes and modalities used by organized criminal groups and to improve law enforcement responses and victim support has been developed at the request of the Government of Brazil in cooperation with the country office of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. Implementation of the project will begin in 2003.

Slovakia

29. One of the key objectives of a project in Slovakia is to enable a newly established trafficking unit of the criminal police to become fully operational. A model for protecting and assisting victims of trafficking in human beings will be developed.

Economic Community of West African States

30. Following the adoption in 2001 by the annual summit of the heads of State of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) of a political declaration and an action plan against trafficking in human beings, a joint United Nations/ECOWAS expert group meeting held in Lomé on 2 and 3 December 2002 evaluated action taken by States in West Africa and identified future areas for intervention and assistance.

Viet Nam and South-East Asia

31. A project proposal that has been prepared for Viet Nam is aimed at enhancing the existing mechanisms against trafficking in persons by increasing investigation and prosecuting capacity, networking between law enforcement and the judiciary, and training personnel of the agencies involved. A project for computer-based training in South-East Asia is to build upon the existing expertise of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in computer-based training.

Colombia

32. The objectives of a project in Colombia are to assist the authorities in developing and implementing an integral national strategy against trafficking in

human beings and to support the criminal justice system in the prevention, investigation and prosecution of such trafficking.

Republic of Moldova

33. The objective of a project in the Republic of Moldova is to improve criminal justice responses to trafficking in human beings through strengthened national policies and practice. The focus of the project is on reducing the involvement of organized criminal groups.

D. Promoting anti-corruption policies and measures, with emphasis on judicial integrity

34. Since 1999, when the global programme against corruption was launched, more than 30 States have requested assistance. The majority of the projects being implemented focus on strengthening judicial integrity, an important area for the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme. While judicial integrity is a critical part of individual country projects, it also is the focus of more global efforts. Thus, in close collaboration with Transparency International, the Department for International Development of the Government of the United Kingdom and the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the independence of judges and lawyers, the Programme continued to support chief justices from common and civil law countries in their efforts to identify and apply best practices in strengthening judicial integrity and capacity.

Coordinating anti-corruption initiatives

35. Most of the activities of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme involve close collaboration with international and regional agencies and non-governmental organizations. Within the framework of the Programme, an inter-agency anti-corruption coordination mechanism was launched for the purpose of ensuring coordination and cooperation among the United Nations and other organizations active in the area of fighting corruption. A third coordination meeting was held on 24 and 25 July 2003.

Technical assistance projects

Colombia

36. The aim of the project in Colombia is to strengthen the rule of law at the subnational and national levels by increasing the integrity of local governments and strengthening local prosecutorial capacity.

Hungary

37. Within the framework of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme, a comprehensive corruption assessment was carried out in collaboration with the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute. A national anti-corruption decree was adopted by the Council of Ministers of Hungary in 2001. A national integrity meeting was conducted in March 2003 for the purpose of developing a comprehensive anti-corruption action plan. The project

was concluded with a presentation to a meeting of European Union member and accession States in June 2003.

Lebanon

38. In its first phase (from October 1998 to December 1999) a project in Lebanon focused on strengthening the capacity of various stakeholders in the legislative, executive and judiciary, ensuring coordination among them and providing support to an anti-corruption public awareness campaign. In the second phase, the project focused on: (a) a comprehensive corruption assessment; and (b) the provision of assistance to the Government of Lebanon in the development of a national integrity strategy and action plan. At the request of the Government, the project was revised and new objectives were established focusing on raising awareness among youth.

Nigeria

39. A project in Nigeria is aimed at enhancing the rule of law by increasing judicial capacity and integrity. Integrity meetings for the judiciary have been conducted in three pilot states, resulting in action plans delineating measures to enhance: (a) access to justice; (b) timeliness and quality of justice; (c) the public confidence in the courts; (d) efficiency, effectiveness and credibility of the complaint system; and (e) coordination throughout the criminal justice system. The implementation of the project has proceeded well. The project is scheduled to be concluded by the end of 2003.

South Africa

40. The aim of a project in South Africa that was approved in early March 2001 was to assist the Government in its efforts to prevent, detect and fight corruption and promote the rule of law within the country. A comprehensive corruption assessment was conducted. The final report was adopted by the Government in 2003 and presented to the Parliament. In addition, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime Regional Office for Southern Africa collaborated closely with the Southern African Development Community on regional anti-corruption initiatives.

Other planned activities

41. In 2002, within the framework of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme, an idea was developed, in close consultation with the Permanent Mission of Indonesia to the United Nations (Vienna), for a project aimed at supporting the Government and the Chief Justice of Indonesia in strengthening judicial integrity and capacity in order to enhance the rule of law in the country. In addition, an idea for a project aimed at strengthening the effectiveness, transparency and accountability of the judiciary of the Islamic Republic of Iran was developed in consultation with the Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations (Vienna). A fact-finding mission to Tehran was conducted in March 2002.

Research and publications

42. Within the framework of the Programme, work continued on operational guides and other technical and policy publications, including the anti-corruption

tool kit, the United Nations anti-corruption manual for policy makers and a publication series containing technical and policy papers on anti-corruption topics, all available on the Internet (www.unodc.org/corruption.html). Work also began on a handbook on anti-corruption measures for prosecutors and investigators.

E. Reforming and reconstructing criminal justice systems; and crime prevention

43. The demand for technical assistance projects in reconstruction of criminal justice systems, criminal justice reform and crime prevention has increased dramatically over the past two years. Current projects cover a variety of areas, including juvenile justice reform, victim support and urban security. A programme for criminal justice reform and reconstruction has been designed for Afghanistan. Ongoing work also relates to the implementation of United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice and the implementation of the Vienna Declaration on Crime and Justice: Meeting the Challenges of the Twenty-first Century (General Assembly resolution 55/59, annex).

Technical assistance projects

Criminal justice reconstruction programme for Afghanistan

44. The criminal justice reconstruction programme for Afghanistan is composed of three projects that have been developed in close consultation with the relevant stakeholders. A project on reform of the penitentiary system, launched in June 2003, includes the rehabilitation of the prison and detention centre capacity in Kabul and the establishment of a special detention centre for women. The project also entails the revision of legislation and the training of prison staff on standards and norms and on management issues. Moreover, educational and vocational programmes will be initiated, especially for detained women, in order to facilitate their social reintegration. A project on reform of the juvenile justice system is to strengthen the juvenile justice administration of the Ministry of Justice as a focal point for matters pertaining to children in conflict with the law. The project includes the establishment of new premises for the youth court in Kabul as well as a special residential institution for offenders aged 15-18. A large project on criminal law and criminal justice capacity-building is aimed at refurbishing offices of the Ministry of Justice and the judiciary, training the staff and establishing multi-purpose centres of justice in selected provincial capitals.

Juvenile justice reform projects in Egypt and Lebanon

45. A follow-up project to support the juvenile justice system in Lebanon, focusing on improving services and detention conditions for female juveniles, was launched in November 2002. An evaluation committee has made an assessment of the detention conditions and, pursuant to the recommendations of the assessment report, premises were selected for the new residential institution. A project to strengthen legislative and institutional capacity for juvenile justice in Egypt began in early 2003.

Victim support in South Africa

46. A project to establish shelters for victims of domestic violence in South Africa has been expanded to include another province during 2002. The centres provide a range of services (paralegal, counselling and emotional support) for the victims and survivors of violence, especially women and children, and rehabilitation services (counselling and support groups) for male perpetrators in order to break the cycle of violence. A global programme for building up non-governmental support structures for victims of violent crime, including trafficking in persons, has also been initiated. The project is aimed at identifying best practices in global victim assistance by funding innovative victim support initiatives, primarily in developing and transitional societies.

Urban security in Senegal

47. A crime prevention project launched in Senegal is designed to establish neighbourhood police forces and judicial centres in deprived districts in the Dakar area and will further provide special training for the personnel working in those public services.

Other planned activities

48. Following the programme for Afghanistan, projects envisaging more general penal reform and modernization of the criminal justice system are also being prepared for several other countries, including, Ethiopia, Sierra Leone and Somalia. A project on juvenile justice reform, following the example of the projects launched in Egypt and Lebanon, is currently under consideration for Jordan. On the basis of the experience gained with the project in South Africa, new projects focusing on measures to counteract violence against women and children are being designed for other African countries. As far as urban security is concerned, a proposal for building urban security through neighbourhood policing in Brazil is being prepared, based on a memorandum of understanding signed with the Government of Brazil in April 2003. Advisory services were provided to Timor-Leste, in cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme, to assess the current status of the prison and detention facilities and to advise the Government on a medium- to long-term strategy for its operations and activities. In addition, an idea for a project on reforming criminal justice in Guinea-Bissau was drafted, in order to address the very basic needs of that country in sustaining the rule of law. A project on developing best practices for crime prevention in developing countries—with an initial focus on the Caribbean and Southern Africa—will be initiated in 2004. Numerous other projects on crime prevention and criminal justice reform have been proposed by field offices of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.

VII. Implementation of standards and norms, dissemination of information and coordination of activities

A. Implementation of the United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice

49. Acting on the recommendations of the Committee for Programme Coordination for a more balanced approach,[7] the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme continued its efforts to promote the role of the United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice in the context of justice reform. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime took part in several events relating to the application of United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice, including organizing and conducting two training courses on the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice standards and norms in law enforcement, in cooperation with the International Committee of the Red Cross. These were held in Vienna and elsewhere in Austria in October 2002 and in June 2003.

50. Pursuant to section I of Economic and Social Council resolution 2002/15 of 24 July 2002, the Meeting of Experts on the Application of United Nations Standards and Norms in Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice was held in Stadtschlaining, Austria, from 10 to 12 February 2003. The Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its twelfth session recommended the adoption by the Council of a draft resolution entitled "United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice".[8] In that draft resolution, the Council would take note of the recommendations of the Meeting of Experts (E/CN.15/2003/10/Add.1) and would request the Secretary-General to report to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its fifteenth session on progress made in the targeted collection of information on the United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice in the following categories, with a view to improving technical cooperation: (a) standards and norms related primarily to persons in custody, non-custodial sanctions, juvenile and restorative justice; and (b) standards and norms related primarily to legal, institutional and practical arrangements for international cooperation.

B. Implementation of the Vienna Declaration on Crime and Justice: Meeting the Challenges of the Twenty-first Century

51. In its resolution 56/261 of 31 January 2002, the General Assembly took note with appreciation of the plans of action for the implementation of the Vienna Declaration on Crime and Justice: Meeting the Challenges of the Twenty-first Century, annexed to the resolution, and invited Governments to use the plans of action as appropriate. By a note verbale dated 26 September 2002, the Secretariat sought information from States on steps being taken to implement the plans of action. By June 2003, replies had been received from Austria, Colombia, Croatia, Denmark, Finland, Greece, Morocco, Portugal, Qatar, the Russian Federation, Slovakia, Sweden, Turkey, Ukraine and Venezuela. A number of States indicated that they were being guided by the plans of action in their development of policies and programmes at the national level.

C. Dissemination of information

52. Efforts have continued to be made to improve the visibility of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme. Those efforts include the ongoing maintenance and upgrading of the web site, the production of promotional material on technical assistance activities and presentations on the work of the Programme. Information on the Programme continued to be disseminated by electronic means, through its web site (www.odc.org/crime_prevention.html). A number of new publications have been added in the course of the year. *Forum on Crime and Society* is a peer-reviewed journal published twice a year in the six official languages of the United Nations. It is read primarily by academics and practitioners in the field of criminal justice. The most recent issue of *Forum*[9] was devoted to corruption. The focus of the forthcoming issue will be on terrorism. Issues of *Forum* can be accessed on the Internet (www.unodc.org/unodc/en/crime_cicp_publications_forum.html).

53. In 2002, the Centre for International Crime Prevention published statistical information on crime and criminal justice from the period 1998-2000 that had been collected from over 80 Member States through the Seventh United Nations Survey of Crime Trends and Operations of Criminal Justice Systems (www.odc.org/crime_the Crime Programme_survey_seventh.html). The web-based statistics are accessed by a large number of users and a considerable quantity of information is downloaded. For example, during one month (October 2002) 1,097 gigabytes of text were downloaded. With 519 variables, the survey remains the most comprehensive statistical database available on global crime and criminal justice. The questionnaire for the Eighth United Nations Survey of Crime Trends and Operations of Criminal Justice Systems, covering the period 2001-2002, will soon be sent to States. In collaboration with the Statistics Division of the Secretariat, a manual for the collection of crime statistics has been designed and published.

54. During 2002, work focused on completing the study on global trends, in which links between institutional arrangements and organized crime and public sector corruption were examined. Research focused on developing a tool oriented towards international policy to identify and address a country's institutional propensity towards major crime, in particular organized crime and corruption at high-levels in the public sector. A preliminary report has been completed and will be published in an upcoming issue of *Forum on Crime and Society*. Drawing on data provided by various United Nations surveys of crime trends and operations of criminal justice systems and the International Crime (Victim) Survey and on additional information, work has begun on a world report on crime and justice, to be published in 2004.

D. Coordination of activities

55. Within the framework of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme, activities continued to be coordinated closely with the institutes comprising the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme network. In particular, the active participation and contributions of the institutes have been sought in carrying out the plans of actions for the implementation of the

Vienna Declaration on Crime and Justice. Pursuant to the practice established since the tenth session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, the institutes of the Programme network organized a workshop on trafficking in human beings, especially women and children, during the twelfth session of the Commission. In addition, the coordination meeting of the Programme network was held in Courmayeur, Italy, in December 2002. The meeting was preceded by the Conference on Trafficking: Networks and Logistics of Transnational Organized Crime and Terrorism, organized by International Scientific and Professional Advisory Council. Close bilateral cooperation was pursued by the members of the Programme network, most notably with the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute, in the framework of implementing the global programmes of the Centre for International Crime Prevention. Representatives of the Centre attended board meetings of the Interregional Institute, the European Institute for Crime Prevention and Control, affiliated with the United Nations, and the Latin American Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders.

VIII. Resource mobilization

56. Efforts to broaden the donor base of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme have continued. Informal donor meetings were held in 2002 and 2003. In particular, for the first time, a major donor meeting for both the drug and the Crime components of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime was held in April 2003. The contributions and pledges provided to the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Fund from January 2002 to June 2003 totalled $9,546,300 (see the table below); however, of those contributions, $9 million—or 95 per cent—were earmarked for specific projects or activities. Efforts are being made to increase the volume of contributions so that the expanded mandates of the Programme may be fulfilled and the numerous projects that have recently been launched may be completed. Efforts are also being made to increase the proportion of general-purpose contributions, in order to provide greater programme flexibility.

Contributions and pledges to the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Fund, January 2002-June 2003

Country	*Total amount pledged (United States dollars)*
Austria	1 860 233
Bahamas	1 000
Canada	220 794
Chile	6 000
Croatia	1 076
Denmark	372 800
France	310 074
Germany	24 777
Greece	30 000
India	6 000

Country	*Total amount pledged (United States dollars)*
Italy	3 005 600
Japan	66 000
Malta	2 500
Morocco	4 000
Netherlands	551 867
Norway	208 908
Republic of Korea	18 000
Spain	156 576
Sweden	410 500
Switzerland	124 363
Tunisia	2 000
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	901 811
United States of America	1 728 410
Venezuela	5 000
Total	**9 346 300**

57. As at 1 January 2003, the authority to manage the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Fund, as well as the sub-account for the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute, was delegated to the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. Included in that delegated authority is the acceptance of contributions and issuance of allotments and allocations. Accordingly, the processing period for the above-mentioned activities should be shortened considerably.

IX. Conclusions and recommendations

58. A number of key developments have occurred in the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme during the past year. The number of ratifications required for the entry into force of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime has been received. The entry into force of the Convention on 29 September 2003 will constitute a significant milestone, as will the completion, adoption and opening for signature of the future United Nations Convention against Corruption.

59. Overall, the number of technical assistance activities undertaken by the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme has grown rapidly. There has been a particularly noteworthy increase in the area of criminal justice reform, reconstruction and crime prevention. It can be expected that the increase in technical assistance activities will continue. Activities have also expanded considerably in the area of terrorism prevention. In order to build upon and enhance those positive developments predictable and increased resources, including general-purpose voluntary contributions, will be needed to provide the necessary basic operational framework and to enable the Programme to respond expeditiously to new requirements. In this connection, the General Assembly may wish:

(a) To reiterate the continued high priority of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme and the need for adequate allocation of resources, particularly with respect to the promotion of international cooperation and the provision of technical services to States for meeting the challenges posed by transnational organized crime, trafficking in human beings, corruption and international terrorism, as well as criminal justice reform in post-conflict societies;

(b) To welcome the significant expansion of activities of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme in the provision of technical assistance to States in the priority areas of concern, including in the field of criminal justice reform, particularly in the context of post-conflict reconstruction;

(c) To welcome the new orientation and expansion of activities of the Programme for supporting the efforts of States in combating international terrorism, including the launching of the global programme against terrorism, and the close coordination of work with the Counter-Terrorism Committee of the Security Council;

(d) To appeal for renewed efforts to bolster the capacity of the Programme to continue to provide leadership in the priority areas of fighting organized crime, corruption, trafficking in human beings and terrorism, as well as in promoting criminal justice reform;

(e) To call on States to reinforce their efforts to ratify and implement expeditiously the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its Protocols, the future United Nations Convention against Corruption and the international legal instruments relating to international terrorism, including by drawing on, where appropriate, the services available from the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme;

(f) To call on States, international financial institutions and the private sector to make or increase significantly their contributions to the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Fund, to enable the Programme to meet the increasing demand for technical services in the priority areas.

Notes

[1] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2003, Supplement No. 10* (E/2003/30).

[2] Ibid., chap. I, sect. A, draft resolution II.

[3] Ibid., sect. A, draft resolution IV.

[4] Ibid., sect. A, draft resolution III.

[5] Ibid., sect. B, draft resolution V.

[6] Ibid., sect. A, draft resolution I.

[7] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 10* (A/56/10).

[8] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2003, Supplement No. 10* (E/2003/30), chap. I, sect. B, draft resolution VII.

[9] *Forum on Crime and Society*, vol. 2, No. 1 (December 2002) (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.IV.2).

Annex

Technical cooperation projects supported by the Centre for International Crime Prevention, 2002

Country or area	*Project*	*Value (United States dollars)*
Global	Assistance to signatories of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto	1 975 466
	Database on flows of trafficking in persons	144 301
	Judicial integrity	100 000
	Strengthening the legal regime against terrorism	230 000
Brazil	Measures to combat trafficking in persons	400 000
Colombia	Strengthening local government institutions in the fight against corruption	505 280
Hungary	Assessment of corruption in Hungary	175 263
Lebanon	Support for the national anti-corruption strategy	305 551
	Strengthening the legislative and institutional capacity for juvenile justice	754 049
Nigeria	Strengthening judicial integrity and capacity	293 968
Philippines	Coalitions against trafficking in persons in the Philippines	269 312
South Africa	Mechanisms to counteract domestic violence	660 000
	Measures to counteract organized crime	414 000
	Donor coordination in the field of criminal justice	40 000
	Support for the National Anti-Corruption Programme	359 340
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	Preventing and controlling economic and financial crime	330 000
Central Asia	Assessment of transnational organized crime	64 636
Eastern Europe (Czech Republic and Poland)	Criminal justice responses to trafficking in persons	519 348
Total		**7 540 514**